

In the Claims

1. A product dispenser, comprising:

a container;

a holder held in said container for holding multiple units of a product;

5 a gate carried on said holder, said gate being selectively displaceable between an engaged position for retaining product in said holder within said chamber and a non-engaged position for dispensing a single unit of said product from said holder; and

a lock for securing said gate in said engaged position.

2. The product dispenser of claim 1, comprising:

a controller in communication with said lock for regulating the movement of said gate.

3. The product dispenser of claim 1, comprising:

a sensor for detecting tampering of said dispenser.

4. The product dispenser of claim 1, comprising:

a neutralizing device in proximity to the contents of said holder.

5. A pill dispenser, comprising:

a container;

a holder having a first and second opening, said holder positioned substantially within an interior of said container;

a displaceable gate positioned in communication with one opening of said holder;

a lock for preventing displacement of said gate.

6. The dispenser of claim 5, wherein said container includes at least one aperture in communication with one opening of said holder.

7. The dispenser of claim 6, wherein said holder is a chute having a substantially helical shape.

8. The dispenser of claim 5, wherein said dispenser includes a dispensing member having at least one aperture adapted for receiving a pill.

9. The dispenser of claim 8, wherein said aperture of said dispensing member is in communication with one opening of said holder.

10. The dispenser of claim 9, wherein said gate controls the movement of said dispensing member.

11. The dispenser of claim 5, wherein said dispenser includes a controller in communication with said lock for regulating the movement of said gate.

12. The dispenser of claim 11, wherein said controller includes at least one programmable microcontroller.

13. The dispenser of claim 12, wherein said dispenser includes a sensor in communication with the microcontroller.

14. The dispenser of claim 13, wherein said sensor includes a conductive loop encasing said dispenser.

15. The dispenser of claim 13, wherein said sensor includes a capacitive sensor.

16. The dispenser of claim 13, wherein said sensor includes a pressure sensitive switch consisting of at least two layers of conductive material separated by a gap.

17. The dispenser of claim 13, wherein said dispenser is pressurized and said sensor comprises a pressure sensor capable of measuring an internal pressure of said container and an external pressure outside said container.

18. The dispenser of claim 13, wherein said dispenser includes a neutralizing device in proximity to the contents of said holder.

19. The dispenser of claim 11, wherein the lock comprises an actuator and a solenoid.

20. The dispenser of claim 11, wherein said controller includes a timer to regulate the release of said pill.

21. A pill dispenser, comprising:
a container having at least one aperture;

a dispensing member having at least one aperture adapted for receiving a pill;

a chute having a first and second opening, wherein at least one of said openings is in communication with said at least one aperture of said dispensing member, said chute positioned substantially within an interior of said container;

a gate controlling the movement of said dispensing member;

an actuator for repositioning the gate from an engaged position to a non-engaged position;

a button linked to said dispensing member for extending said dispensing member through said aperture of said container;

a controller including at least one programmable microcontroller to regulate the release of said pill from said chute;

a sensor in communication with said microcontroller;

a neutralizing device in proximity to the contents of said chute and said controller.

22. The pill dispenser of claim 21, wherein said dispenser is pressurized and said sensor comprises a pressure sensor capable of measuring an internal pressure of said container and an external pressure outside said container.

23. The pill dispenser of claim 22, wherein the neutralizing device is a flammable agent.

24. The pill dispenser of claim 21, wherein the neutralizing device is a flammable agent.

25. A method for dispensing pills, comprising:
- determining a rate of release for a pill;
 - programming a pill dispenser to release said pill at said rate;
 - loading said dispenser with said pill;
 - 5 sealing said dispenser;
 - releasing said pill at said programmed release rate.
26. The method of claim 25, further comprising the steps of:
- detecting tampering of said dispenser; and
 - upon detection of tampering, neutralizing said pills in said dispenser via a neutralizing device.
27. The method of claim 26, wherein the detecting step comprises a using a sensor in communication with a controller.
28. The method of claim 27, further comprising the step of pressurizing said dispenser.
29. The method of claim 28, wherein the sensor comprises a pressure sensor capable of measuring an internal pressure in said dispenser and comparing said pressure with an external pressure outside said dispenser.
30. The method of claim 26, wherein said neutralizing device comprises use of a flammable agent.